

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 14685 200932Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01  
BIB-01 /053 W

----- 064784 /17

R 200826Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3118  
INFO USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT PROP CH  
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY DELINEATES GANG FOR FOUR'S PLOT

REF: HONG KONG 14025

1. A DECEMBER 17 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT  
COMMENTARY SKETCHES THE PLOT OF THE PURGED "GANG OF FOUR"  
TO USURP PARTY AND STATE POWER AND TIES THE PLOT SPECIFICALLY  
TO AN ATTEMPT TO REDIRECT THE CRITICISM CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
TENG HSIAO-PING. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE FIRST OFFICIAL  
REVELATION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CRIMES OF THE GANG,  
THE ARTICLE DEVOTES ITS MAJOR FOCUS TO SORTING OUT THE  
ORIGINS OF "ACT ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN," THE  
FORGERY WHICH THE GANG ALLEGEDLY WISHED TO USE TO OVERTHROW  
OTHER LEADERS. MAO'S ORIGINAL APRIL 30 QUOTATION -- "ACT IN  
LINE WITH PAST PRINCIPLES" -- SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE  
TENG CASE AND APPARENTLY MEANT TO CRITICIZE HIM BUT NOT TO  
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STRIKE HIM DOWN (REFTEL). A FEBRUARY 25 HUO FUO-FENG  
SPEECH -- PRESUMABLY NOT THE ONE AT THE NIXON BANQUET -- WAS  
CITED BY THE ARTICLE AS ADHERING TO THE PROPER LINE OF  
CRITICISM. MAO'S DIRECTIVES ON CRITICISM WERE ALSO MENTIONED  
AND PRESUMABLY WERE AIMED AT KEEPING THE CRITICISM LIMITED  
TO A FEW PEOPLE AND NOT ALLOWING CRITICISM OF TENG IN THE  
PROVINCES TO BECOME A WITCH HUNT.

2. THE ARTICLE PROVIDES ONLY A FEW NEW REVELATIONS OF THE GANG'S CRIMES AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HUA COUNTERED THEM, AND AS SUCH, PROBABLY DOES LITTLE TO ENLIGHTEN THE CHINESE PEOPLE. IT IDENTIFIES CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AS CHIANG CHING'S "ACCOMPLICE," THUS MAKING MADAME MAO OFFICIALLY THE CHIEF CULPRIT OF THE GANG. THE ARTICLE ALSO PROVIDES A NEW MAO QUOTATION ATTACKING HER --"CHIANG CHING INTERFERED TOO MUCH, AND BY HERSELF SUMMONED TWELVE PROVINCES TO TALK TO THEM." THE ARTICLE RECOUNTS THE TEXT OF HUA'S OCTOBER 2 COMMENT ON THE CHIAO KUAN-HUA'S UN SPEECH DRAFT WHERE HUA STRUCK DOWN "ACT ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN.Z BUT, THE COMMENT IS HOLLOW SINCE HUA HAD ALREADY FAILED TO USE THE PHRASE IN HIS SEPTEMBER 18 EULOGY FOR THE LATE CHAIRMAN MAO. THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT THE GANG "APPROPRIATED" THE NAME OF THE PARTY'S GENERAL OFFICE, ONCE AGAIN RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE WANG TUNG-HSING STOOD DURING MAO'S FINAL DAYS.

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## Message Attributes

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